

From: Walter Brown
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/7/02 11:05am
Subject: MICROSOFT SETTLEMENT

The attached letter expresses my concerns regarding further action against Microsoft.

Thank you for your consideration.

John W. Brown

3082 Greenwood Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730
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January 5, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The purpose of this letter is to implore you to agree to the terms of the settlement that was reached between the Department of Justice and Microsoft. The settlement was reached after three years of extensive litigation and negotiations. To press this issue any further would be a complete waste of time and money. The agreement calls for Microsoft to grant computer makers broad new rights to configure its operating system. They will then be able to promote non-Microsoft software programs that compete with the Microsoft programs included within Windows. Computer makers will now be free to remove the means by which consumers access various features of Windows, and can replace access to those features with access to non-Microsoft software.

I have worked in the communications industry all my life, and have seen first-hand how innovative products have a positive effect on everyone. It is the same in the Information Technology industry, and I feel that if there is someone smart enough to provide a product that is far better than any other product, there is absolutely no reason why we should make them share the intricate design information with competitors. The government needs to keep their hands off private businesses, thereby allowing businesses to prosper and create more jobs. This will help our economy get out of its recession.

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Please agree to the terms of the settlement that was reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice, and do not take any further action against Microsoft at the federal level.

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Sincerely,

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John Brown

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond

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